

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Pending Claims

Claims 1-28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A scanner comprising:

an operator interface;

a display monitor;

a scanning subsystem for acquiring data representing an image of a target object;

a networking port for communicating with a network; and

a computer programmed to perform the following steps:

(a) controlling said display monitor to display a screen comprising a list of searchable parameters, each listed searchable parameter being associated with a respective toggle field and a respective fillable search criteria field, each toggle field having three possible states, any one of said three states being selectable by a user ~~one or more screens having a plurality of fields that can be filled with respective worklist search parameters inputted~~ using said operator interface, a first toggle state indicating that the respective searchable parameter will be ignored during a search in a database, a second toggle state indicating that the respective searchable parameter will be employed as a search parameter during the search but that a retrieved value for that searchable parameter will not be displayed in a display of worklist search results, and a third toggle state indicating that the respective searchable parameter will be employed as a search parameter during the search and that a retrieved value for that searchable parameter will be displayed in a display of worklist search results;

(b) formulating a worklist search request message as a function of the search parameters having toggle fields in said second or third toggle state ~~contents of said plurality of fields~~ in response to input of a search command using said operator interface;

(c) opening an association with a remote worklist broker via said network;

(d) sending said worklist search request message to the remote worklist broker via said networking port while said association is open;

(e) controlling said display monitor to display at least those portions of the worklist search results received from the remote worklist broker in response to step (d) representing retrieved values for those searchable parameters designated for display by said third toggle state ~~[[,]] wherein said received worklist search results comprise a list of patients scheduled to be examined during a particular time period using said scanner;~~

(f) registering portions of said worklist search results belonging to a particular patient in response to input of a patient selection command using said operator interface after step (e);

(g) controlling said scanning subsystem to acquire an image in response to input of a scan command using said operator interface after step (f); and

(h) storing said acquired image in association with said registered portions of said worklist search results in response to input of a save command using said operator interface.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The scanner as recited in claim 29, wherein said computer is further programmed to control said display monitor to display said acquired image.

Claim 31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The scanner as recited in claim 31, wherein said [[one]] screen further comprises fields that can be filled with worklist display order instructions inputted using said operator interface, said worklist display order instructions indicating the order in which said items should be displayed on said display monitor in step (e).

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The scanner as recited in claim 29, wherein said registering step comprises automatically entering said portions of said worklist search results belonging to said particular patient menu into a new patient data file.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The scanner as recited in claim 29, wherein said worklist search request message is formatted in accordance with DICOM protocol.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The scanner as recited in claim 29, wherein said scanning subsystem comprises a multiplicity of ultrasound transducer elements.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A system comprising a network, scanner connected to said network, and a worklist broker connected to said network, wherein said worklist broker comprises means for retrieving stored patient information from a database in response to a worklist search request message received via said network, and wherein said scanner comprises an operator interface, a display monitor, a scanning subsystem for acquiring data representing an image of a target object, a hard disk, and a computer programmed to perform the following steps:

(a) controlling said display monitor to display a screen comprising a list of searchable parameters, each listed searchable parameter being associated with a respective toggle field and a respective fillable search criteria field, each toggle field having three possible states, any one of said three

states being selectable by a user one or more screens having a plurality of fields that can be filled with respective worklist search parameters inputted using said operator interface, a first toggle state indicating that the respective searchable parameter will be ignored during a search in a database, a second toggle state indicating that the respective searchable parameter will be employed as a search parameter during the search but that a retrieved value for that searchable parameter will not be displayed in a display of worklist search results, and a third toggle state indicating that the respective searchable parameter will be employed as a search parameter during the search and that a retrieved value for that searchable parameter will be displayed in a display of worklist search results;

(b) formulating said worklist search request message as a function of the search parameters having toggle fields in said second or third toggle state contents of said plurality of fields in response to input of a search command using said operator interface;

(c) opening an association with said remote worklist broker via said network;

(d) sending said worklist search request message to the remote worklist broker via said network while said association is open;

(e) controlling said display monitor to display at least those portions of the worklist search results received from the remote worklist broker in response to step (d) representing retrieved values for those searchable parameters designated for display by said third toggle state ~~[[,]] wherein said received worklist search results comprise a list of patients scheduled to be examined during a particular time period using said scanner;~~

(f) registering portions of said worklist search results belonging to a particular patient in response to input of a patient selection command via said operator interface after step (e);

(g) controlling said scanning subsystem to acquire an image in response to input of a scan command via said operator interface after step (f); and

(h) storing said acquired image on said hard disk in association with said registered portions of said worklist search results in response to input of a save command via said operator interface.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The system as recited in claim 36, further comprising a storage device connected to said network, wherein said computer is further programmed to perform the following steps:

(i) opening an association with said storage device via said network; and

(j) sending a file comprising said acquired image and said associated portions of said worklist search results to said storage device via said network in response to input of a store command via said operator interface while said association is open.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The system as recited in claim 37, wherein said worklist search request message and said file for storage are formatted in accordance with DICOM protocol.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The system as recited in claim 36, wherein said scanning subsystem comprises a multiplicity of ultrasound transducer elements.

Claims 40-42 (Canceled).